Clan Graham

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Dear Eddie April,

Please forgive me for not writing in a long time. Be assured that it was not that I do not care, it was only that I have been so consumed with work and family problems, I seem not to have time to take a peaceful bath anymore. That occurred to me yesterday as I was rushing frantically to dry myself after my bath. I thought to myself, "Good grief! I even take a bath like a mad man anymore!"

I got your letter and was so glad to get it. You are very special to me, and I think about you so often. I'm very thankful that your health is as good as it is. Of course it would be nice if your health was that of a teen-ager - we all wish for that again - but of course that will never happen. We must therefore be thankful that we enjoy as much health as we do. My son, Jesse, was hit last year on his bicycle by a hit and run driver and had to have extensive brain surgery. It was questionable for a long time if he would make it, but he pulled through - and of course we have thanked God many times for that favor.

No, I do not know the George Graham about whom you sent the article. However, I want to inquire in N. Carolina about his lineage. One of our forefathers was the Chancellor of the Unversity of North Carolina when it was first formed.

By now you must have received the Newsletter about the Reunion. I sincerely hope you can make it. It should be the best thing that has ever happened to the Graham families. We are trying with all our efforts to make the program informative and interesting, and want folks to enjoy themselves. I want this one to be such a success that it will become an annual affair. Tell as many as you can about it and encourage them to attend. Several speakers will present biographies of Jesse Graham's offspring, and where possible I want a descendent of each of Jesse's children to present the biography of that son or daughter. I intend to write Ben Jr. as soon as I finish your letter to ask him to present the biography of Dr. William Smith Graham, Ben's G-Grandfather. I can furnish him with all the information he needs, and with his brains he will have no trouble in presenting it. Where did Ben get all his talents? Do you suppose that his Mother had anything to do with it? I'm teasing, of course. There is no doubt that you had a very strong influence in his life, and his life has been an outstanding success story. Typical of the Grahams - whatever they attempt, they succeed at it. I've had the pleasure of meeting many of them, and I'm always honored to be related to them. In March of this year I had to go to Texas to attend one of my widowed sisters who was acutely ill, and while there I stopped by Junction, Texas, to visit one of our cousins, Dr. Ron Graham, a grandson of Monroe Graham who was Will's youngest brother. Ron was celebrating his 70th birthday, and I spent the night with him and his wife, Betty. He had several prestigious practices in big cities, but about 10 years ago moved to Junction in order to have a small town practice, which he still has and likes. He is supposed to be retired and only work part time, but he still works long hours in his clinic and is also Chief of Staff of the Nursing Home in town. What an outstanding

man he is. I did not see him do it, but I would not be surprised if I saw him walking on water!! So smart, but yet so modest and sensitive. I also met all of his family, and they are outstanding also. One of his sons is also a physician and has a practice at Kerrville. The son and his lovely wife have four little girls with whom I fell in love, and they with me. Most of the day they were there I had the four of them hanging on my back and sitting in my lap. They are adorable, and so well-behaved. It certainly divulges the quality of their home-life. Our Clan has several physicians in it. Another of G-Uncle Monroe's sons had a son, Dr. Marion Graham, who has a prestigious practice in Dallas and is on the Board of Directors of several of the big hospitals in Dallas. Ron told me that Marion made the highest grades ever made in Baylor Medical School. And, a grandaughter of Ben Franklin Graham, Monroe's and Will's brother, is also a big-time physician in Dallas. Plus there are several others who are physicians. Another bit of information in which you will be interested is a son of Aaron Graham who was one of your teachers. That son's name is Will Graham, undoubtedly named after Dr. Will Smith Graham. Will is not only a dentist, he is head of the Texas Dental Association, the professional organization for dentists in Texas. And in addition to the world of medicine, our Clan is filled with achievers in every field. Grahams are craftsmen and tradesmen, teachers, preachers, and farmers and ranchers, artists, homemakers, and legislators, and contribute to the world in every walk of life. When I see what the rest of the Clan has done, I still hope that I may join those ranks someday. I work hard, but seem to spin my wheels a lot!

I must close now and write to some others. Our reunion will not be the same if you are not there; I want to introduce you as one of our honored guests. Please try to make it if you can. Maybe Ben can bring you. In the meantime, take good care of yourself.

We love you,

Bill

Bill

Dear Ben,

How can I apologize to a cousin and close friend for having not written in so long? Time seems to elude me and often I do not get things done to please me. Hopefully you will be less critical of me than I am of myself. I suppose I knew when I started this genealogy thing that the demands on my time would be heavy, and if I knew it - I was right! I have in excess of 1000 Grahams with whom I correspond, and while I love it, it requires a lot of time. Indeed, I have been unable to correspond for the last 1½ years because I was working for a company with plants in several foreign countries with which I had projects. For long periods I didn't even communicate with my family. However, that job ended in January and I am back at home (except that for the last three weeks I have been on a job in Northern California). Many of the Grahams thought I died or something, and often I was so tired and stressed that death would have been alright with me.

Excuse me for this type of letter, but I'm trying to save some time by just adding on to some of the things I said to your Mom. Ben, I will appreciate it very much if you will present the biography of your G-Grandfather, Dr. Wm. Smith Graham. I don't know how much experience you have with public speaking, but you do not need any for this job. I think most of our relatives will appreciate us amateur speakers better than they would a professional. So if you can possibly make it, please plan on attending the Reunion and making the delivery for Dr. Wm. Smith Graham. And bring your thimble for Show and Tell. I'm sending along some information for you to use in any way that you wish. I am disappointed that we have only one day for our program and therefore do not have much time to devote to each family, but this year we have to do the best we can in only one day. Perhaps next year we can do even better. People are excited about it; I'm getting calls from lots of Graham descendents who until now have not been interested in family history, but now that we are having a Reunion with a Program - they want to attend. Thank God! I get frustrated.

I hope all is well with you and you are enjoying life. I am very anxious to meet you in Texas. My invitation (which you do not need) to visit here still stands - at any time. Please come when you can. I'll meet you at the Ontario Airport (within rock-throwing distance almost), or whatever I can do to make you comfortable and at home.

Please let me hear from you soon.

Your devoted cousin,